

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. – 2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2-7~~ wherein the ~~step of~~ determining further comprises:

receiving addressee information about an addressee to whom a message is intended at the e-mail address; and

determining whether the addressee information is consistent with the identifier portion and the identified format requirement,

wherein the addressee information provides information in addition to the email address.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the addressee information is a name of the addressee.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~5-7~~ wherein the identified format requirement is a function of the addressee's first name and last name, the list of known names includes first names and last names, and the ~~step of~~ comparing the identifier portion to a list of known names further comprises:

comparing a first sub-portion of the identifier portion to the list of known first names;

and

comparing a second sub-portion of the identifier portion to the list of known last names.

7. (Currently amended) ~~The A method comprising of claim 5 wherein the step of making the determination further comprises:~~

parsing a domain portion of an e-mail address and an identifier portion of the e-mail address;

identifying a format requirement corresponding to the domain portion in a domain name database, wherein the identified format requirement is a function of an addressee's name;

determining whether the identifier portion is consistent with the identified format requirement by comparing the identifier portion to a list of known names and utilizing a statistical frequency of the known names to determine a score relating to whether the identifier portion is consistent with one or more known names under the identified format requirement;

providing an indication of whether the identifier portion is consistent with the identified format requirement; and

providing a format suggestion based on the identified format.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~2-7~~ further comprising ~~the step of:~~

providing a suggested correction that complies with the identified format requirement.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising ~~the step of:~~

receiving addressee information about an addressee to whom a message is intended at the e-mail address; and

wherein the ~~step of~~providing the suggested correction includes generating the suggested correction based on the addressee information,

wherein the addressee information provides information in addition to the email address.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the addressee information is a name of the addressee.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising: ~~the step of~~

gathering the addressee information from the message intended to the addressee.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1-7~~ further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

determining whether the domain portion complies with domain formulation rules; and
providing an indication whether the domain portion complies with domain formulation rules.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 further comprising ~~the step of~~:
providing a suggested correction to the domain portion to comply with the domain formulation rules.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~1-7~~ further comprising ~~the steps of~~:
comparing the domain portion to a list of ~~known~~ domain names;
if the domain portion is not in the list of ~~known~~ domain names, determining one or more ~~known~~ domain names for which the domain portion may be a misspelling; and providing the one or more ~~known~~ domain names as potential alternative spellings for the domain portion.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising ~~the steps of~~:
identifying a second format requirement corresponding to the one or more ~~known~~ alternative spelling domain names; and
providing a preferred alternative spelling for the domain name portion based on whether the second format requirement for the one or more ~~known~~ alternative domain spellings is consistent with the identifier portion of the e-mail address.

16.– 29. (Canceled)

30. (New) A method comprising:

parsing a domain portion of the e-mail address and an identifier portion of the e-mail address;

comparing the domain portion to a list of domain names in a domain name database to identify a format requirement corresponding to the domain portion;

if the domain portion is not in the list of domain names, determining one or more domain names for which the domain portion may be a misspelling;

providing the one or more domain names as potential alternative spellings for the domain portion;

identifying a second format requirement corresponding to the potential alternative spellings for the domain portion; and

providing a preferred alternative spelling for the domain portion based on whether the second format requirement corresponding to the potential alternative spellings is consistent with the identifier portion of the email address.